

had been published with a high moral object — namely, to show the degradation of the French peasant and the necessity of alteration in the laws by which he was governed.

Vizetelly's solicitor, Mr. Licldold (of Messrs. Lewis & Lewis), argued on his client's behalf that he had a perfect right to publish these translations, the French originals of which were circulated in Great Britain without let or hindrance; and he contrasted them with English works which were sold widely and freely, such as Byron's "Don Juan," and Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor." Far from the incriminated books being the three most immoral ever written, said Mr. Lickfold, there were many within the cognisance of all men of any education which were very much worse. But the magistrate curtly intimated that it was a case for a jury to decide, and he forthwith committed the defendant for trial at the Central Criminal Court, admitting him, meanwhile, to bail in his own recognisances.

Vizetelly's committal led to great rejoicing among the Pharisees; and to improve the occasion the "National Vigilants" summoned a bookseller named Thomson at Guildhall (September 7) for selling an English version of Boccaccio's "Decameron." Mr. Forrest Fulton — subsequently knighted and appointed Common

Sergeant of the
City of London — prosecuted and asked for a
committal, but
Mr. Horace Avory, defendant's counsel,
replied that the
" Decameron " had been in circulation for over
four hundred,
years, that there were three copies of the work
in the Eng-
lish language in the Guildhall Library and
some two
hundred in the British Museum; and he
contended that
this classical work was not indecent in the eyes
of the law.
Mr. Alderman Phillips, who heard the case,
quietly re-